



HAPpenings!

HISPANIC AFFAIRS PROJECT

HAP is an organization dedicated to the development of leadership, advocacy, and the provision of key services for the integration of the western Colorado community

Please join us to honor:

MarillacHealth
&
Hilda Gonzales

Recipients of the
2017 John Kiernan Award

For their service to the Immigrant and Refugee
Communities of Western Colorado



Outstanding Community Organization



Outstanding Community Advocate

Saturday, October 7th.

5:30-7:00 pm.

Grand Valley Catholic Outreach
245 S. 1st Street. Grand Junction

Ticket \$15.00

Includes Dinner & Event.

To purchase, please call or e-mail
970.249.4115 - ricardo@hapgj.org

The Hispanic Affairs Project invites you and your family to join us for our Anniversary Celebration. We will recognize individuals and organizations that inspire our struggle for social justice.

MarillacHealth

The mission of MarillacHealth is to provide comprehensive primary health care services to all Mesa County residents regardless of income or insurance status. Collaboration, compassion, excellence, inclusiveness, integrity and stewardship are the six core values which animate our planning, daily operations and continuous quality improvement. MarillacHealth is a “health care home” for persons of all ages and backgrounds providing patient-centered, integrated care – a combination of medical, behavioral, dental and optical services - to support the “whole person.” Since 1988 Marillac has welcomed low income and underserved families. In 2016 9,307 people were served for a total of 38,734 visits, up from 25,030 visits in 2015. MarillacHealth’s approach to health care today is rooted in its history and its namesake, Saint Louise de Marillac. This spirit continues to live on at MarillacHealth...to meet a community need and find a community solution to solve a community problem.

Most recent significant achievements include:

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Award “Building a Culture of Health in America” Colorado-July 2017.
- Colorado Community Health Network, Clinical Distinction Award for significantly improved patient experience, engagement, and outcomes, January 2017.
- Rocky Mountain Health Plan’s “Dr. Bruce Wilson Memorial Award”, recognizing exemplary accomplishments through collaboration with community partners to make a meaningful difference in the life of our community, November 2016.
- Awarded Federally Qualified Community Health Center Designation, May 2015.

Hilda Gonzales

Hilda Gonzales has held multiple positions within the Migrant Program, including Recruiter, Data Specialist and now Family Liaison. Her 25+ year’s career in the program has afforded her the opportunity of seeing many students and former students graduate, not just from high school but also from college! Around town, Hilda is always waving “hi” to families and always remembers a detail or two about everyone she meets. Since the MEP works regionally across western Colorado, she is sought out by school staff not just in Grand Junction but also in Delta, Montrose, Gunnison and Eagle. She is an advocate for families within the schools and helps interpret important information between speakers of Spanish and English. She is often the first “link” between families and schools for recently arrived immigrants from all over the world- Mexico, Guatemala, Vietnam, Myanmar (Burma), etc. She greets everyone with a smile and her patience and warm-heartedness have made the transition easier for literally (!) thousands of immigrant students.

For the past few years, Hilda has focused on dental and health services, working tirelessly to schedule appointments for families, sometimes driving many hours to shuttle them to their appointments and ensure follow-up care for some of the neediest families. Hilda has had the great responsibility and honor of chaperoning many students on extended field trips, bringing high schools students to college campuses all over Colorado, bringing groups to Washington, D.C. to learn about citizenship and how the government works, as well as chaperoning a two-week intensive, overnight summer program for more than ten years—The students always learn from Ms. Hilda and many keep in touch with her because of her admirable (and seemingly effortless) ability to make everyone feel special in their own way. Hilda’s willingness to continue to learn new things and grow has an amazingly positive influence on students- and her colleagues!

**Please send donations in honor of these award recipients to: Hispanic Affairs Project,
HAP, 300 N. Cascade Avenue Suite C4, Montrose, CO 81401**